



Maricopa County
Animal Care and Control

BRINGING HOME A NEW PUPPY



Bringing home a new puppy is truly one of life's joys. Thoughtful pre-puppy preparations and a well planned first 24 hours can give your fuzzy bundle of promise a head start and make your dreams of the perfect family dog come true.

Before the big day

Once household discussions have established that everyone wants a dog of a certain age and breed, where to get the pup - from a shelter or reputable breeder - is more or less determined.

Create a schedule and post on fridge:

- Who will take the pup to the papers or backyard and when?
- Who will be in charge of feedings 3- 4 times a day?
- Who will make veterinary appointments for vaccinations and de-worming?

Create a vocabulary list and post on fridge

- Sit means sit, down means off the furniture, etc. (Different people can't use down for different thing – it will confuse the dog!)

Create a shopping list of needed supplies:

- Food and water bowls
- Chew toys
- Grooming supplies
- Bedding
- Collar and leash, identification tag
- Crate, gate and odor neutralizer.

Puppy-proof your home:

- Tape electrical cords to baseboards
- Store household chemicals on high shelves
- Remove plants, rugs and breakables
- Set up the crate and install gates

If you have children, hold one last meeting to lay down the rules: Don't overwhelm Puppy the first day, and don't fight over him or create mob scenes showing him to the neighborhood. Now you're off to get Puppy.

Getting off on the right paw

When you pick up your pup, remember to ask what and when he was fed. Replicate that schedule for at least the first few days to avoid gastric distress. If you wish to switch to a different brand, do so over a period of about a week by adding 1 part new brand to 3 parts of the old for several days; then switch to equal parts, and then 1 part old to 3 parts new.

From the start, consistency is important. On the way home, Puppy should ride in the back seat, either in one person's arms or, preferably, in a crate or carrier.

For more information on animal care, behavior or MCACC programs, contact
(602) 506-PETS or visit pets.maricopa.gov
Excerpts from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals International.

Once Puppy is Home:

- Take him to his toileting area immediately, preferably outdoors instead of on newspaper inside
- Start your schedule for feeding, toileting, napping and play/exercise
- Be sure to give Puppy lots of family time
- Puppy also needs brief periods of solitary confinement. Solitude may be new to Puppy, so he may vocalize concern. Don't give in and comfort him or you may create a monster. "Gee, if making noise brought them running once, maybe more whimpering is needed to get their attention again," reasons the pup.
- Give Puppy attention for good behavior, such as chewing on a toy or resting quietly

Doing things correctly from the start prevents confusion. Through puppy preparedness, you are one step closer to your Dream Dog.

House Training Your Puppy

House training requires a strategy based on three components:

1. Consistency: A consistent walking schedule catered to the dog's developmental stage and individual preferences.
2. Confinement: A method that helps build bladder and bowel control.
3. Cleaning: A good enzymatic odor neutralizer to clean up accidents. Accidents will happen; it is unrealistic to expect they won't.

Scheduling

Puppies can control themselves roughly one hour for each month of age, up to nine or ten hours. At three and a half to four months, they can usually stay clean for six to seven hours overnight, but soil more frequently during the day. Dogs eight months or over go about three times a day.

Remember: Puppies usually need to eliminate after working, eating and exercising.